

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067847

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SG, US, PINT

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR

REFS: (A) STATE 66105, (B) DAKAR 1864

1. IN ADDITION TO OFFICE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER (REFTEL A), ENTRY VISA PROBLEM, AND AFRICAN ISSUES PRESENTED BELOW, YOU MAY WISH TO INFORM PRESIDENT SENGHOR OF OUR APPRECIATION FOR CHIEF JUSTICE M'BAYE'S OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AT THE RECENT UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SESSION IN GENEVA (FYI: WE ARE WORKING ON POSSIBILITY OF MESSAGE, EITHER WRITTEN OR ORAL, SPECIFICALLY COMMENDING M'BAYE. END FYI).

2. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS ON AFRICAN ISSUES IN YOUR DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR:

(A) THE HORN:

-- ALL SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY FORCES NOW APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM ETHIOPIA AND ETHIOPIAN FORCES HAVE TAKEN UP
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POSITIONS ON ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI BORDER BUT HAVE NOT CROSSED IT.

-- WE ARE PLEASED THAT ETHIOPIANS APPARENTLY ALLOWED SOMALIS TO WITHDRAW UNHINDERED AND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF REPRISALS AGAINST OGADENI SOMALIS REMAINING BEHIND.

-- WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA TO RECOVER FROM THE WAR. (AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY ADD THAT FOLLOWING A PLEDGE FROM MOGADISCIO TO RESPECT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA, KENYA, AND DJIBOUTI, WE WILL CONSIDER CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS ABOUT SOME PURELY DEFENSIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA.)

-- WE BELIEVE THAT MUCH OF THE INITIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE OGADEN SHOULD COME THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND BELIEVE UNHCR AND ICRC WHICH ALREADY ARE ACTIVE IN BOTH SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA SHOULD BE ASKED BY UNSC OR OAU TO TAKE THE LEAD UNDER OAU AUSPICES AS THEY HAVE THE NECESSARY MACHINERY TO ACT.

-- WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT THE NIGERIAN-LED OAU MEDIATION COMMISSION WILL BE ABLE TO PROMOTE A DURABLE AND JUST SETTLEMENT OF THE OGADEN CONFLICT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

-- IF ASKED, WE HAD TALKED OF SENDING OAU OR UN OBSERVERS TO THE OGADEN AREA BUT HAVE DROPPED THAT IDEA IN FACE OF APPARENT OPPOSITION OF BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA.

-- WE HOPE THAT THE SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE OF ETHIOPIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WILL NOW REDUCE AND SOON ELIMINATE

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ETHIOPIAN DEPENDENCE ON CUBAN TROOPS AND SOVIET ADVISERS.

-- WITH THE WINDING DOWN OF THE OGADEN CONFLICT, ETHIOPIAN ATTENTION WILL NO DOUBT FOCUS ON THE ERITREAN SITUATION. WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR VIEWS ON THAT CRISIS AND ANY ADVICE YOU MIGHT HAVE ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE THERE, ESPECIALLY IF SOVIETS AND CUBANS BECOME ACTIVE IN THAT GUERRILLA WAR.

(B) RHODESIA:

-- THE U.S. VIEWS THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AS SERIOUSLY INADEQUATE AND INCAPABLE OF RESOLVING THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. WE AND THE BRITISH MAINTAIN OUR POSITION THAT, TO BE DURABLE, A SETTLEMENT MUST PROVIDE FOR A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER AND FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OF THE NATIONALISTS GROUPS TO SEEK THE SUPPORT OF ZIMBABWEANS IN OPEN AND IMPARTIALLY CONDUCTED ELECTIONS.

-- WE AND THE BRITISH BELIEVE THAT FURTHER EFFORTS TO BRING ALL THE PARTIES TOGETHER ARE IMPERATIVE. WE ARE

CURRENTLY SOUNDING OUT THE PRINCIPALS TO THE DISPUTE, THE

FRONT LINE AND NIGERIA, ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE AT WHICH DIFFERENCES COULD BE BRIDGED.

-- THE RESPONSE OF THE AFRICAN STATES HAS BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE. THE NATIONALISTS, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL, AS WELL AS SMITH, ARE NOT INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH THE IDEA AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO SPONSOR SUCH A MEETING.

(C) NAMIBIA:

-- AT THE FEBRUARY 11-12 FOREIGN MINISTER-LEVEL MEETING IN NEW YORK, BOTH SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA RAISED A NUMBER OF POINTS ABOUT THE WESTERN FIVE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL. WE CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE NOW MADE SOME CLARIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXT AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DISTRIBUTING THE REVISED PROPOSAL TO SWAPO, SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE FRONT-LINE STATES.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT OUR PROPOSAL IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385 AND TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVED IN THE DECOLONIZATION OF NAMIBIA.

-- IF WE ARE TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT, BOTH SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA WILL HAVE TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY AND A WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE. WE SAY THIS WHILE KEEPING IN MIND THE BASIC FACT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA.

-- WE ARE APPROACHING A TIME WHEN BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT OR REJECT OUR PROPOSAL. WE ATTACH THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND SINCERELY HOPE THAT THEY WILL LEAD TO A PEACEFUL, INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA. VANCE

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